

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRINCE ABDALLAH

1. PRINCE ABDALLAH, SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY SHAIKH TUWAYJIRI, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, AND AMBASSADOR ALIREZA MET WITH THE SECRETARY ON JULY 8 AT THE DEPARTMENT SHORTLY AFTER 12:30 PM. MEETING PRECEDED LUNCH GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY IN ABDALLAH'S HONOR ATTENDED BY SOME 50 GUESTS. DISCUSSIONS RESUMED FOR ANOTHER FIFTEEN MINUTES IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE FOLLOWING THE LUNCH. THE SECRETARY QUICKLY PUT ABDALLAH AT EASE AND THE SAUDIS WERE DELIGHTED BY THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL ATTENTION AND COURTESIES TOWARD ABDALLAH. TEXT OF SECRETARY'S TOAST BEING SENT BY SEPTTEL. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL HIGHLIGHTS.

2. MIDDLE EAST: ABDALLAH EXPRESSED SAG SUPPORT FOR SECRETARY'S PAST EFFORTS IN MIDDLE EAST AND WISHED THAT
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NEGOTIATIONS HAD NEVER STOPPED BUT HAD CONTINUED. THE

SECRETARY NOTED THAT WHILE CERTAIN DELAYS HAD OCCURRED ON US SIDE, THEY HAD ALSO OCCURRED ON THE ARAB SIDE. WITHOUT A UNITED ARAB FRONT, IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS. HE WELCOMED THE EFFORTS OF SAUDI ARABIA TO BRING SYRIA AND EGYPT TOGETHER.

3. LEBANON: SECRETARY NOTED THAT TRAGEDY IN LEBANON WAS A FACTOR MAKING MORE DIFFICULT FURTHER PROGRESS ON PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE SECRETARY ASKED ABDALLAH IF HE HAD ANY IDEAS OF WHAT US COULD DO. ABDALLAH'S RESPONSE WAS TO NOTE THAT US HAD GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES IN MIDDLE EAST, THAT ONLY SOVIETS WOULD BENEFIT IF NO SETTLEMENT WAS WORKED OUT, AND THAT SAUDIS WERE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO BRING PALESTINIANS, SYRIANS, CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS IN LEBANON TOGETHER. SECRETARY SAID US SUPPORTED SAUDI EFFORTS.

4. HAWKS FOR JORDAN: IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF SOVIET EQUIPMENT WERE INTRODUCED INTO JORDAN, ABDALLAH REFERRED TO MEETING BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN AND KING KHALID IN RIYADH TWO DAYS BEFORE. ABDALLAH FELT HUSSEIN HAD BEEN MISDIRECTED BY CERTAIN OF HIS ADVISERS IN APPROACHING MOSCOW FOR SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES AND REFLECTED SOME RESENTMENT THAT JORDANIANS HAD TRIED TO THREATEN THE US AND SAUDI ARABIA WHO WERE HELPING JORDAN BY GOING TO THE RUSSIANS. HOWEVER, HE CONFIRMED THAT KING KHALID HAD RECENTLY AGREED TO RAISE SAUDI CONTRIBUTION FROM DOLS 300 MILLION TO DOLS 500 MILLION TO BE DISBURSED OVER PERIOD OF TEN YEARS ON CONDITION THAT MISSILES WERE PURCHASED FROM US OR OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT EARLY REPORTS OF THE HUSSEIN-KHALID MEETING HAD BEEN FAVORABLE AND THAT THIS INCREASED OFFER BY THE SAUDIS SHOULD ENABLE US TO PRESENT A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD MEET JORDAN'S BASIC REQUIREMENTS.

5. US DETERMINATION AND PRESTIGE: POINTING TO EVENTS IN VIETNAM AND ANGOLA, ABDALLAH EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT USG HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND DECISIVELY TO CRISIS SITUATIONS WHERE SOVIETS HAD BENEFITTED. SOVIETS HAD NOW
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MOVED INTO SOMALIA, SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONCEIVABLE WHEN US PRESTIGE IN WORLD WAS AT ITS HEIGHT. SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT LAST TWO YEARS HAD BEEN VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR THE EXECUTIVE BUT HE THOUGHT THAT AFTER ELECTIONS, AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE WOULD REASSERT ITSELF, THAT ADMINISTRATION WOULD ACT DECISIVELY, AND THAT OUR FRIENDS WOULD NOT BE DISAPPOINTED. KISSINGER

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